

Three Levels of Instruction with Supporting Activities

Step 1: Provide Developmental Activities

- Emphasize problem solving.
- Use interesting problems to frame and motivate exploration.
- Use problem situations that relate to the lives of your students.
- Guide student thinking using questions.
- Do not answer your own questions. Give students time to answer.
- Use models that can be manipulated and studied.
- Emphasize concrete objects and pictures before introducing symbols.
- Work along with students, observing their progress carefully.
- Concentrate on preventing misconceptions instead of correcting them.
- Give corrective feedback as quickly as possible.
- Use observation and oral questions to evaluate, rather than just pencil and paper tasks.

Step 2: Provide Reinforcement Activities

- Create stimulating explorations that build upon previous developmental lessons where students worked together.
- Expand upon the activities that you started in the developmental lessons.

- Use materials in a variety of ways to connect concrete models, pictures, and symbolic representations.
- Emphasize problem solving.
- Organize small cooperative groups where students can share ideas and help each other.
- Let students in small groups take responsibility for making presentations, explaining processes, and creating problems.
- Let students work together but also provide opportunities to work alone.
- Prepare problem solving bulletin boards and learning centers.

Step 3: Provide Drill and Practice Activities

- Create stimulating games where students work together.
- Change the directions for worksheets to create interesting puzzles and explorations.
- Emphasize problem solving.
- Use problem situations to motivate practice.
- Give short sets of exercises and evaluate student progress.
- Do not give long and tedious assignments in which students might practice their own misconceptions.
- Never introduce drill before proper concept development and reinforcement of concepts have taken place.